

PRESS RELEASE

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Madison, Wisconsin -- Erik C. Peterson, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Stuart J. Kurschner, DOB: 6/19/68, of Eau Claire, Wisconsin, pleaded guilty yesterday in U.S. District Court in Madison to the interstate sale of stolen goods.

Between October 2002 and March 2005, Kurschner stole computers from Luther Midelfort Hospital in Eau Claire, his former employer, and auctioned them over eBay, Inc. During an internal investigation, the hospital discovered that approximately 200 new and used computers had been stolen from its central receiving area and computer lab. A search of Kurschner's home and car turned up additional evidence that he had been selling the computers under the name "Power Gear."

U.S. District Judge Barbara B. Crabb scheduled sentencing for October 31, 2006. Kurschner faces a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison, a \$250,000 fine, a supervised release term of three years, and an order for restitution to the victim.

The charges against Kurschner were the result of an investigation conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Eau Claire Police Department. Prosecution of the case has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Paul W. Connell.

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